

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the Original Sheets 1-9 of the drawings, filed November 13, 2003, which consist of Figures 1-9 with the attached Replacement Sheets 1-9, which consist of Figures 1-9. Amendments to Figures 1-9 of the attached Replacement Sheets do not constitute new matter. Replacement Sheets and Annotated Sheets showing changes are attached herein.

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated January 25, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 25, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

In the specification, paragraphs [0021]-[0022], [0025], [0027], [0033], [0039], [0041], [0045]-[0053], [0056], [0069], and [0081] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems or to be consistent with the figures.

In the Figures, the following figures have been amended:

Replacement Sheet 1, Figure 1 – An excess element numeral 110 was removed, element numeral 112 was redirected, and the hatching of element 180 was amended within the figure;

Replacement Sheet 2, Figure 2 – Element numerals 130, 180, and 520 were added, the view arrows of Figure 3 was re-positioned, the hatching of elements 131, 132, and 180 was amended, and element 131 was amended within the figure;

Replacement Sheet 2, Figure 3 – Element numeral 134 was added and element numeral 134A was amended within the figure;

Replacement Sheet 3, Figure 4 – Element numerals 130, 180, 200, 500, and 520 were added, element numeral 234 was removed, the hatching of elements 131 and 132 was amended, and element 131 was amended within the figure;

Replacement Sheet 4, Figure 5A – Element numerals 131, 180, and 528 were added, element numeral 235 was removed, the hatching of element 180 was amended, and element numeral 530 was redirected within the figure;

Replacement Sheet 4, Figure 5B – Element numerals 131 and 180 were added and the hatching of element 180 was amended within the figure;

Replacement Sheet 5, Figure 6 – Element numerals 131, 134, and 528 were added and element numeral 530 was redirected within the figure;

Replacement Sheet 6, Figure 6A – Element numerals 131 and 628 were added and element numeral 630 was redirected within the figure;

Replacement Sheet 7, Figure 7A – Element numerals 182 and 184 were added and element numeral 181 was redirected within the figure;

Replacement Sheet 8, Figure 8A-8D – Element numeral 800 was added within the figure; and

Replacement Sheet 9, Figure 9 – Element numeral 900 was added within the figure.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 remain pending in the application upon entry of this response. Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 stand rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 and 10-16 of copending Application No. 10/281,079 in view of *Carducci et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,716,302, (herein “*Carducci*”).

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-51 of Application No. 10/894,774 (issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,974,477) in view of *Carducci*.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 11-35 of copending Application No. 10/268,438 in view of *Carducci*.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 10-14, 24-27, 42-48, 61-69, 83-88 and 95-100 of Application No. 10/241,373 (issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,784,096) in view of *Carducci*.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,916,398 in view of *Carducci*.

The Examiner made provisionally rejections under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting that Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 are unpatentable over Application No. 10/894,774 in view of *Carducci* and

Application No. 10/241,373 in view of *Carducci*. However, Application No. 10/894,774 issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,974,477 and Application No. 10/241,373 issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,784,096 prior to the mailing of this Office Action. Terminal Disclaimers for U.S. Patent Nos. 6,784,096; 6,974,771; and 6,916,398, and U.S. Application Serial Nos. 10/281,079 and 10/268,438 are included herein. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Every reference that the Examiner has cited for the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is a § 102(e) references relative to the pending claims absent evidence of prior invention. Thus an obviousness rejection based on these references may be over come by a Statement of Common Ownership. Therefore, the Applicant has included a Statement of Common Ownership for the current application and U.S. Patent Nos. 6,716,302; 6,784,096; 6,974,771; and 6,916,398, and U.S. Application Serial Nos. 10/281,079 and 10/268,438.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner states that there is no support for a “second gas distribution assembly” in the specification.

Claims 1, 7, and 24 have been amended to clarify the elements a “first gas delivery sub-assembly” and a “second gas delivery sub-assembly.” Support for this amendment may be found on Page 10, Paragraph 35 of the specification. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15, and 21-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Chen et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,916,398, (herein, “*Chen*”). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Chen is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), since *Chen* may only be used as a prior art reference under § 102(e) and *Chen* and the current application were both commonly owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to Applied Materials, Inc. of Santa Clara, California at the time of the invention. *Chen* is listed on the attached Statement of Common Ownership. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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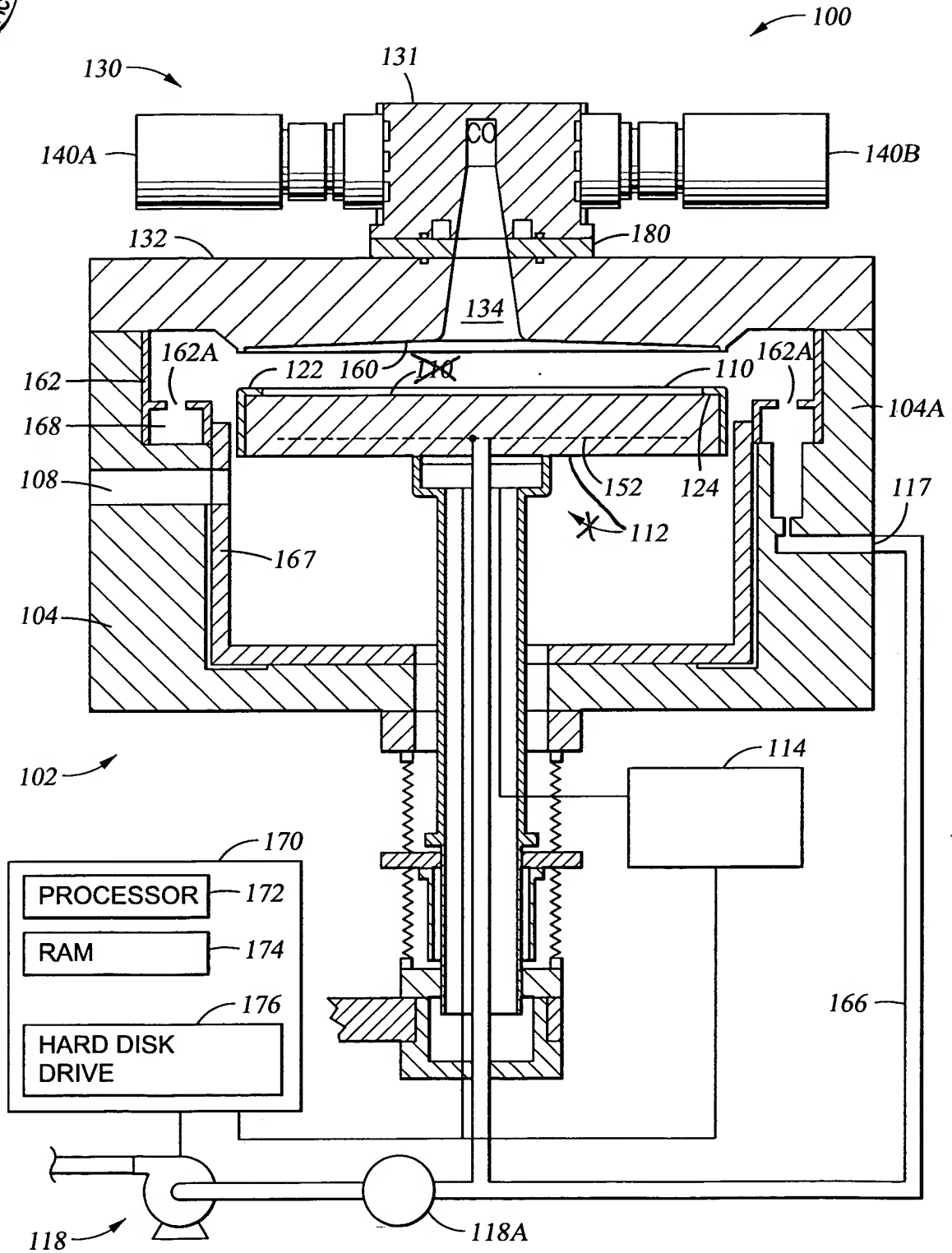


Fig. 1

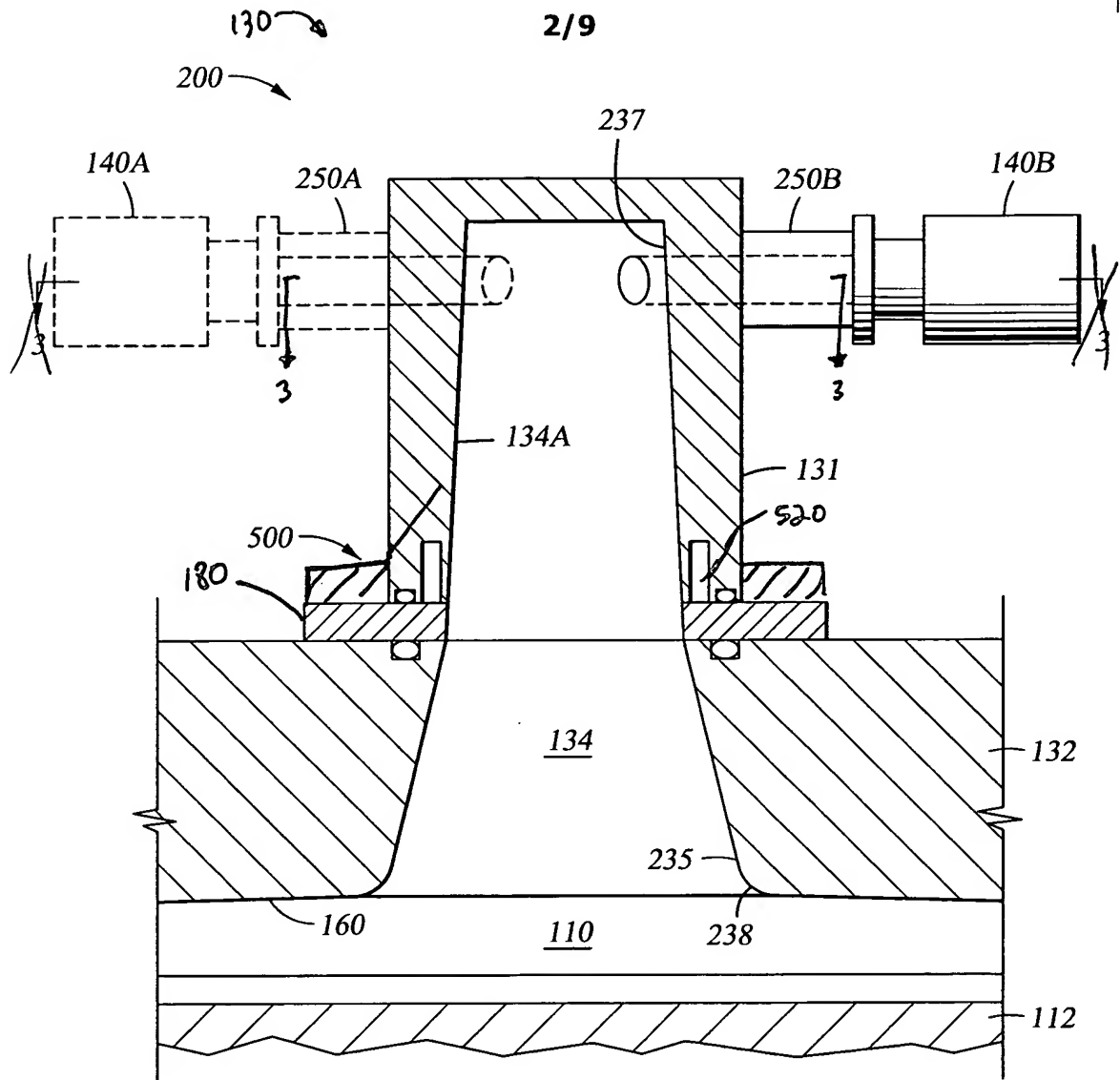


Fig. 2

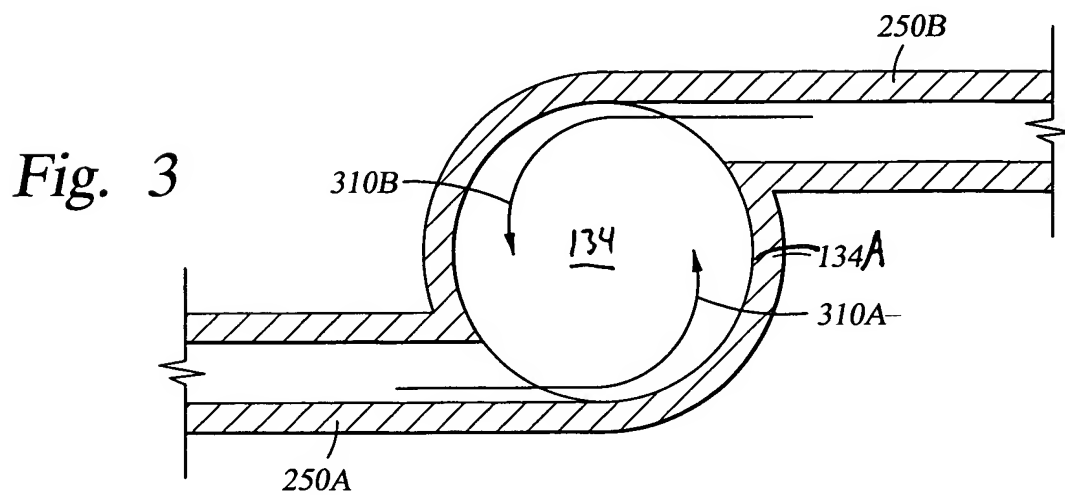


Fig. 3



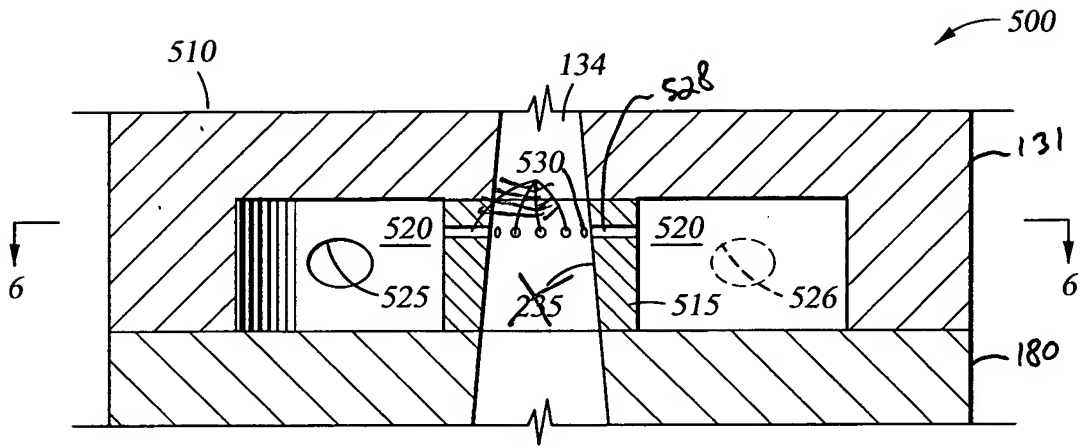


Fig. 5A

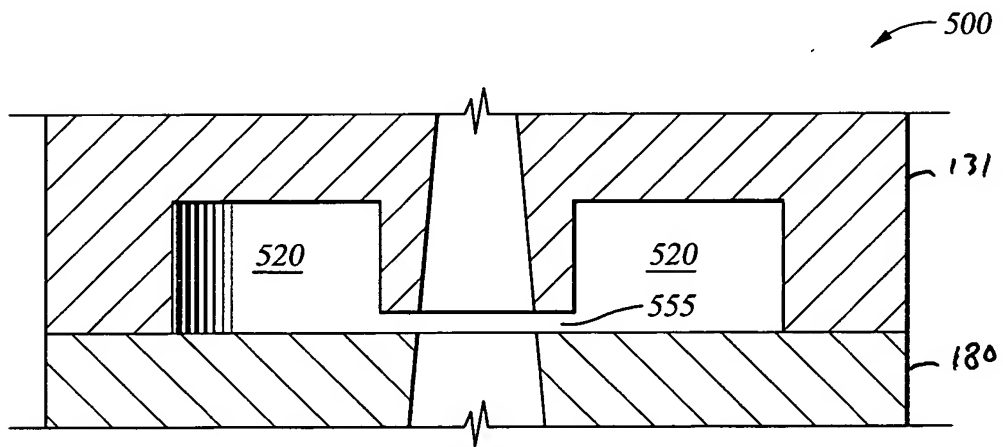


Fig. 5B

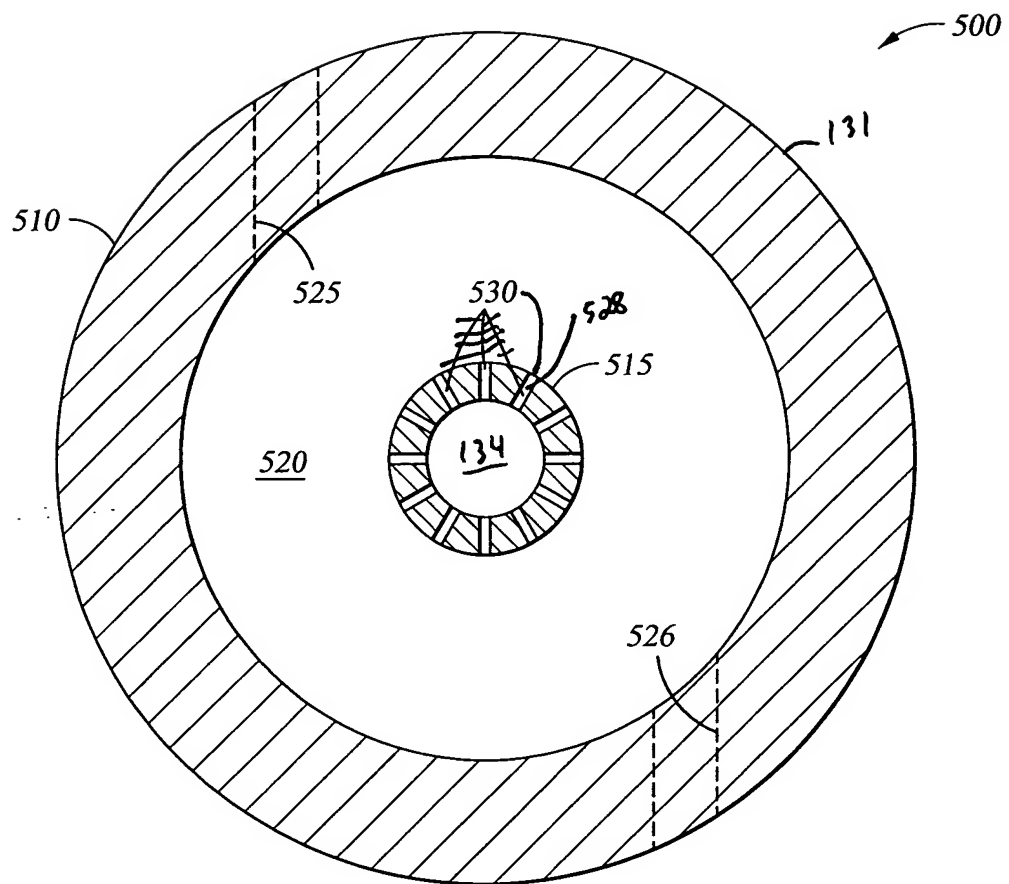


Fig. 6

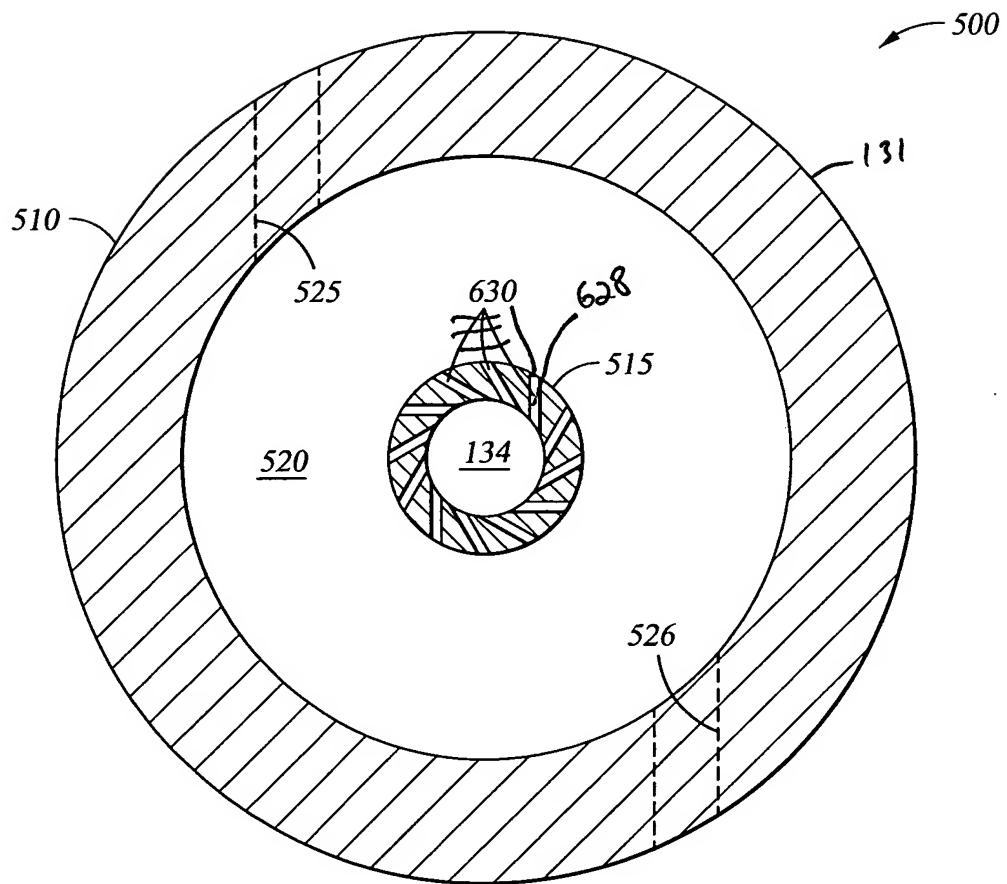


Fig. 6A

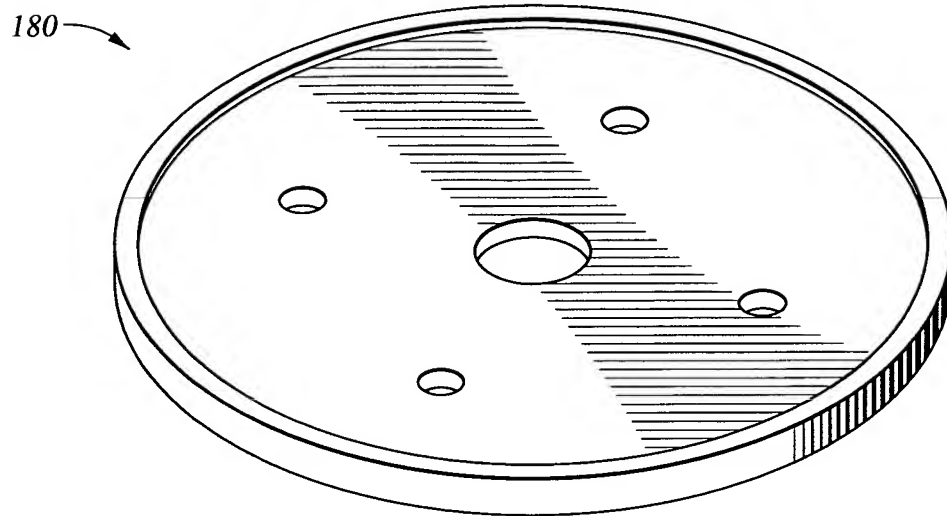


Fig. 7

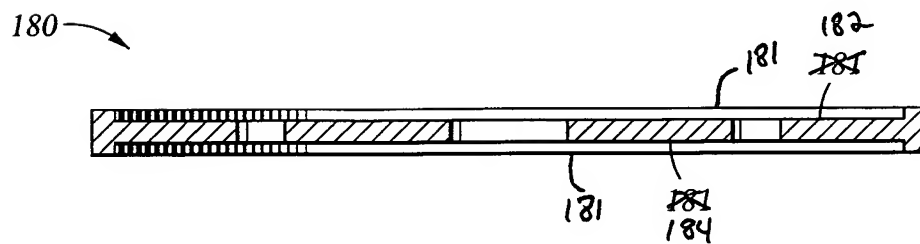


Fig. 7A

Fig. 8A

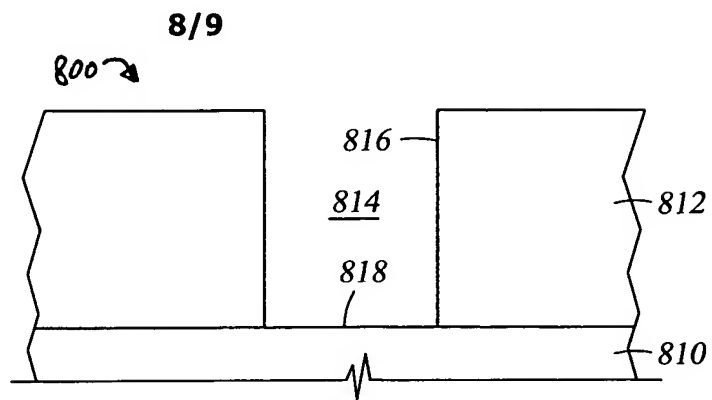


Fig. 8B

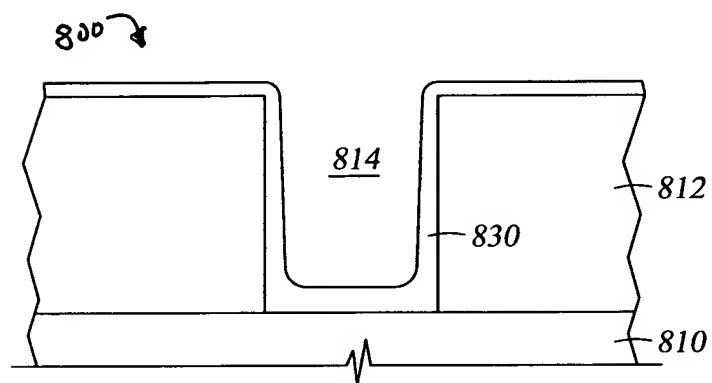


Fig. 8C

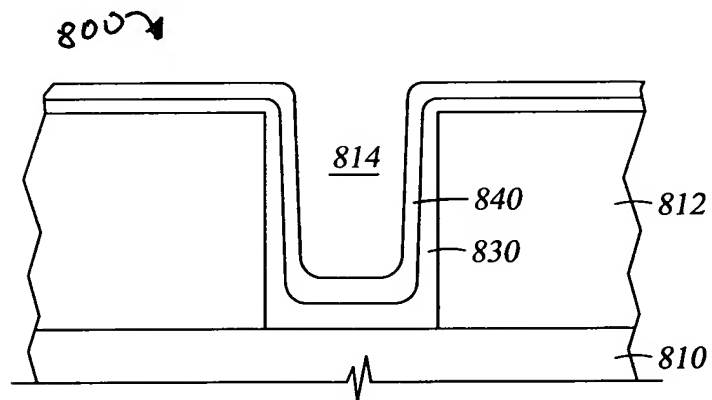
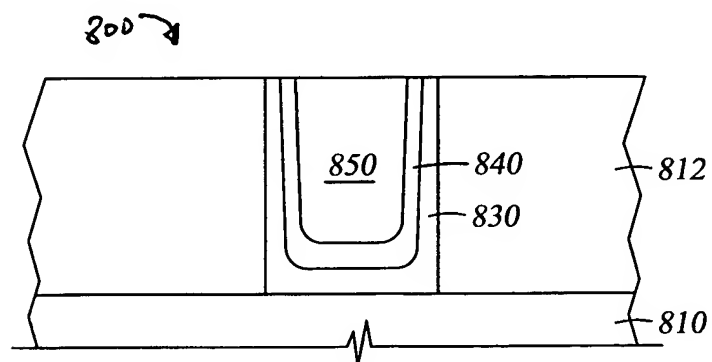


Fig. 8D



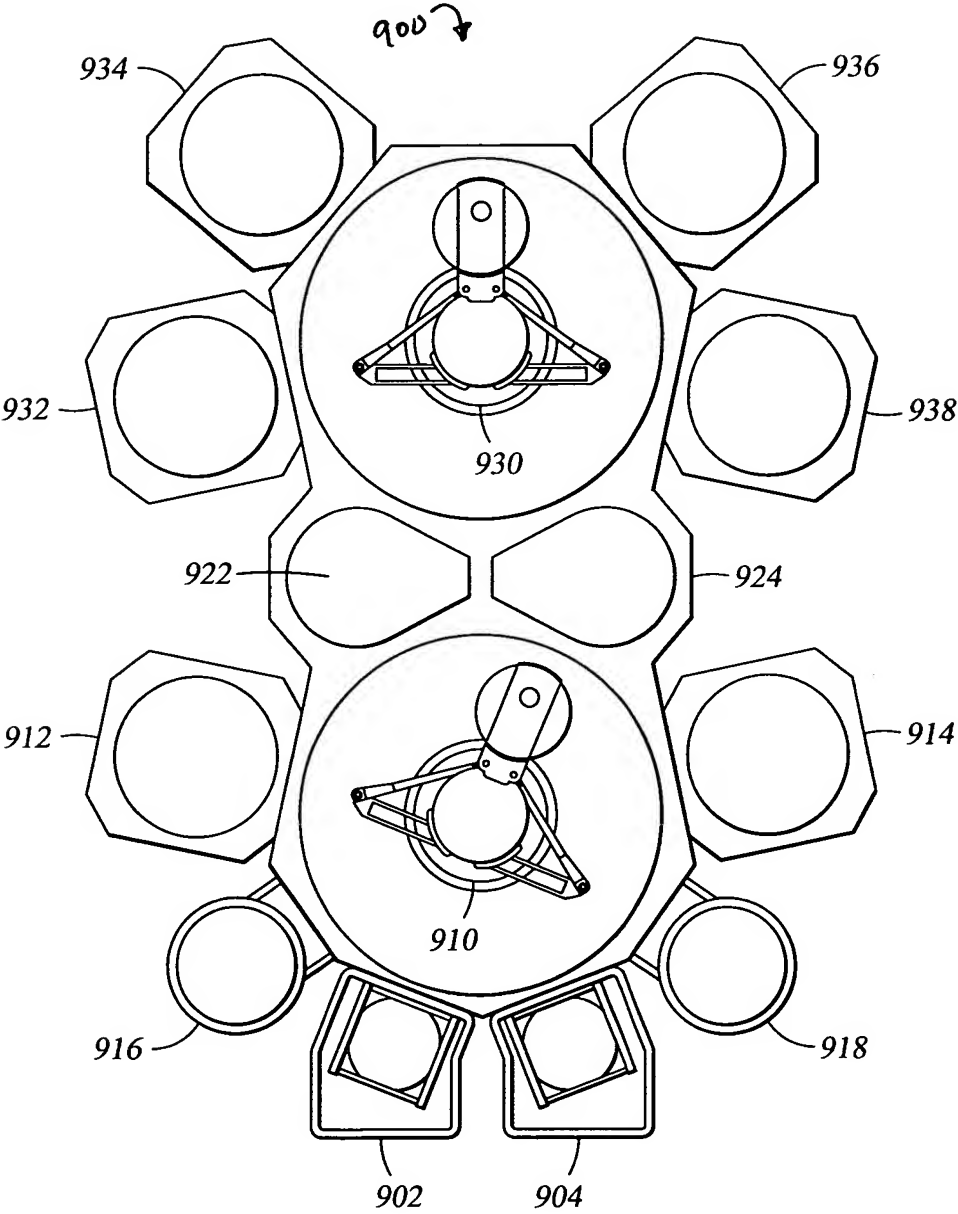


Fig. 9